

Remarks

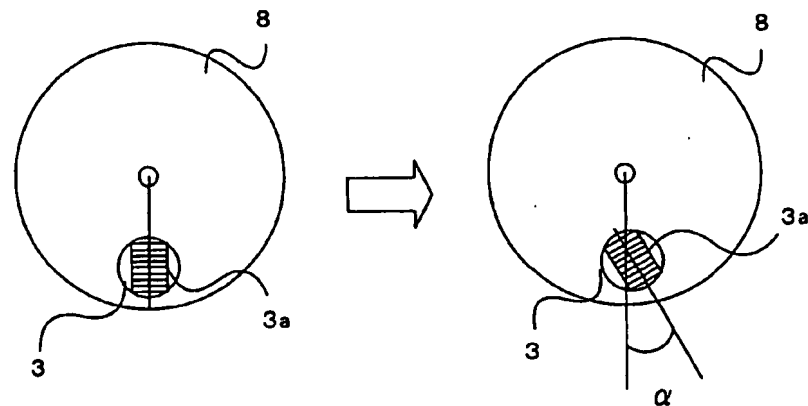
Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

As requested, the title of the application has been amended.

The claims were objected as allegedly failing to conform to the description. Claims 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the objection with respect to these claims is moot. Independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 15 have been amended so as to describe that an alignment direction of the plurality of gratings is oblique with respect to a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the recording medium by the moving unit. By way of example without limitation, these features find support in the subject application at page 14, line 19 to page 15, line 18 and Figure 6B. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment addresses the issue raised in the office action as to how "angular deviation" is performed. Consequently, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 11 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, because the claims allegedly contain subject matter which was not described in the specification. As noted above, claims 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant strongly traverses this contention with respect to both the prior and currently amended claims. To advance prosecution, claims 1, 8, 11 and 15 have been amended as noted above to describe that an alignment direction of the plurality of gratings is oblique with respect to a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the recording medium by the moving unit. This feature is fully and completely described by, inter alia, Figure 6B as shown below:

FIG. 6B



This figure clearly shows a non-limiting example of a grating configuration whose gratings are rotated with respect to a direction which is perpendicular to the moving direction of the recording medium. The gratings are neither parallel nor perpendicular to the moving direction of the recording medium and thus the gratings are "oblique" with respect to this moving direction. See also page 15, lines 11-18 of the subject patent application. The claimed subject matter is fully described in the specification and withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as allegedly being "anticipated" by Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No 4,012,108).

Amended claim 1 recites that "*the one-dimensional spatial modulating unit comprises a grating configuration including a plurality of gratings*" and that "*the one-dimensional spatial modulating unit is positioned such that an alignment direction of the plurality of gratings is oblique with respect to a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the recording medium by the moving unit.*"

Ishii et al. does not disclose the apparatuses or methods set forth in independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 15 and those claims that depend therefrom.

In Ishii et al., the light switch array 27 allegedly corresponding to the claimed one-dimensional modulating unit is positioned such that the alignment direction of the light switches 28 is not oblique to the moving direction of the recording medium 40, as shown in Figures 1 and 4. Because Ishii et al. does not show gratings as claimed, Ishii et al. cannot anticipate

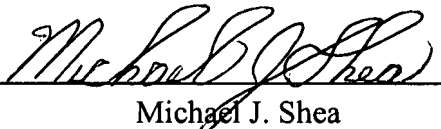
KURODA
Application No. 10/822,147
Response to Office Action dated May 11, 2007

independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 15 or those claims that depend therefrom.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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